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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

CD NO.

COUNTRY East Germany

DATE DISTR. 21 July 1952

SUBJECT Volkspolizei Maneuvers;
Recalcitrance Among Personnel

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1. The Volkspolizei in Brandenburg¹ held training exercises near Halle/Saale. For some days members refused to take part in close combat practice with fixed bayonets against dummies, saying that this had nothing to do with police service. They were brought before the VP-Rat Fritz (fnu), who made it clear to them that close combat pertained to police work. When 18 of the men still refused, they were discharged for refusing to obey orders. Their further fate is unknown. The other 11 men were transferred to Merseburg, Luetzen and Querfurt.
2. The Volkspolizei has held extensive maneuvers on the Saalwiesen near Schkopau in the Halle neighborhood. Here, for the first time, exercises were carried out in which a ground contaminating agent with smoke gas was employed. The Volkspolizei was directed and instructed in the use of protective clothing (rubber costume), gas masks, and in how to test the ground for the presence of contaminating gas. A Soviet staff of eight officers attended the exercises. The instructors belonged to an officer's school at Naumburg/Saale, which apparently functions as a gas school. About 340 men took part in the exercises.

25X1A 1. [REDACTED] Comment: The reference to Brandenburg is probably erroneous.

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